Metadata approach for ArcGIS Server Services: ArcGIS Server services are becoming more common at EPA. These services tend to reuse common layers and provide a number of different interfaces to their content. They do not support the inclusion of FGDC metadata with the service, which means that documenting them consistently and effectively may not be straightforward for EDG contributors. As such, EPA's OEI has provided some guidance on documenting these services and contributing the content to the EDG. The following guidelines are suggested for documenting ArcGIS server services and contributing the content to the EDG. If you'd like more information about ArcGIS server services, please visit http://www.esri.com/software/arcgis/arcgisserver/brochureswhitepapers.html.

EDG Metadata Recommendations for ArcGIS Server Services:

1. Developers of ArcGIS Server services should develop a service-level metadata record that includes the descriptions (long and short) of the data included, and should provide this metadata record to the EDG. Developers should make sure to include the names of the data layers used in the service so that if others were interested in finding the service that contains that data, it would show up from a search. There are a number of options for contributing this record to the EDG, including creating a web accessible folder for harvesting or uploading the record manually.

2. Developers of ArcGIS Server Services should not publish metadata records for each data layer in the service to the EDG if the layers themselves are reused across multiple services. The metadata for the data layers should be extracted from the source of the data layer itself (e.g., from the database where the data is stored), perhaps using an sde2waf connection. The primary linkage for the data layer's metadata record should point to the location where this data is made available (either as a downloadable data set, directly from the database or from the EPA's Clip N Ship application [where appropriate]).

3. Because the services provide a number of different interfaces to their content, it may be difficult to determine how best to document the online linkage. It is recommended that developers include the following two (2) links as primary and secondary linkage in the metadata record. Developers can choose to add additional links if desired and

    a. The primary online linkage URL should point to the WMS service link if available. It is generally assumed that most REST services will enable the WMS interface.
    b. The secondary link should reference the top-level rest interface link.
    c. Other interface links can be included if desired, but are not required. These will be available to users who access the top-level REST link and therefore would be discoverable from there.